



SEQUOIA & KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARKS

& SEQUOIA NATIONAL FOREST/GIANT SEQUOIA NATIONAL MONUMENT

SPRING 2008 GUIDE



Free Activities & Crystal Cave • page 3
 Road & Safety Tips / Finding Gasoline • page 5
 Highlights in Sequoia Park • page 6
 Highlights in Kings Canyon & USFS • page 7

page 8 • Facilities & Ranger Programs in Sequoia
 page 9 • Facilities & Programs in Kings Canyon & USFS
 page 10 • Camping & Lodging / Bears & Your Food
 page 12 • Park Road Map



Spring updates!

WATCH OUT ALONG RIVERS

What causes more deaths than anything else throughout the national parks? Drowning. And it is true in these parks.

This time of year poses the most risks. Temperatures rise, snowmelt fills the rivers, and the beautiful splashing water draws us to the river's edge like a magnet.

Many drowning victims fall in accidentally as they hop rocks, wade, or just watch the river flow. As it gets warmer, others try swimming in deceptively calm waters, only to be swept downstream by unseen currents.

Cold water, melting from snow less than 24 hours earlier, quickly drains your strength and makes it hard to rescue yourself. If others jump in to help, they are likely to become victims, too.

Please: Stay back from the water's edge. Find other ways to cool off!

SEE SEQUOIA BY SHUTTLE

On May 21, the Sequoia Shuttle system starts offering a great way to explore the park without parking hassles or wasting gas.

Two free shuttle routes take you to popular highlights. The Giant Forest bus (Green route) runs between Wuksachi and the Giant Forest Museum, with stops at Lodgepole and the Sherman Tree. We recommend parking at Lodgepole Campground (go past the booth); the main parking for Upper Sherman Tree; or at Wuksachi before climbing aboard.

From the Giant Forest Museum, the Gray route runs to Moro Rock and Crescent Meadow along the edge of the giant forest. It lets you



Dangerous rivers: Whether rocky or flat water, park rivers hide powerful currents that can surprise you. Be careful!

avoid the parking problems that have always plagued this narrow road.

Ride the shuttle one way and walk back on a trail through the Giant Forest. Or take it round trip. Just be sure to note when the last shuttle leaves the area you are visiting. Enjoy the ride!

A third route charges just \$15 to ride from Visalia to the Giant Forest round trip! Ask at visitor centers or see Visalia's website: www.sequoiashuttle.com

A BIG WEEK - APRIL 19-27:
 National Park Week; Earth Day on April 22; National Junior Ranger Family Day & Free Entrance Fee on April 26!

By presidential proclamation, this week honors "America's best idea"—the National Parks. This year's theme: "Kids in Parks."

To celebrate, no entrance fee is charged on Saturday, April 26. That's also National Junior Ranger Family Day, with a special event at Hospital Rock Picnic Area in Sequoia's foothills. Park rangers will host a variety of exploration stations, including mule packing, journal writing, bear ecology, and much more. Booths, games, and activities take place from 10am to 2pm. Earn a special patch! See pages 8 and 9.

EVERY DAY

Become a Junior Ranger any time! Just pick up the free Junior-Ranger booklet at any visitor center and get started.

Make every day Earth Day! Challenge yourself and your friends to take care of your parks *and* your planet. See how creative you can be! How can you produce as little trash as possible? How can you save gas and electricity? Make it fun. Make it your style. Make it a commitment.